

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 21, 2005 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W135 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Rep. Margaret Dayton, House Chair
Sen. Patrice M. Arent
Sen. D. Chris Buttars
Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Rep. Ron Bigelow
Rep. Duane E. Bourdeaux
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. John Dougall
Rep. James A. Ferrin
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. David L. Hogue
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway

Rep. Gregory H. Hughes
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff

Members Absent:

Sen. David L. Thomas
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Mr. Phillip V. Dean, Policy Analyst
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Rep. Dayton called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Chair Dayton suggested amending the third paragraph of the minutes under Committee Business by inserting "lack of" before "progress."

MOTION: Sen. Arent moved to amend and approve the minutes of the July 20, 2005 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Hale, Rep. Bourdeaux, Rep. Christensen, Rep. Dougall, Rep. Hogue, Rep. Hughes, and Rep. Johnson were absent for the vote.

Supt. Ray Timothy, Associate Superintendent, USOE (Utah State Office of Education), provided an update on waivers and negotiations in regard to Utah obtaining flexibility from the U.S. Department of Education in implementing the federal law, "No Child Left Behind."

Chair Dayton said that Utah and Connecticut took the lead in opposing the implementation of "No Child Left Behind" and noted to date there are 47 states that are opposing to some degree the implementation of "No Child Left Behind."

Ms. Shelly Day, Information Consultant, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, distributed an information packet and explained the activities for Utah's Legislators Back to School Program.

2. Computing Literacy Certification

Chair Dayton noted that Certiport, Inc., a Utah-based corporation, is a leader in certification on computer desktop application software and basic digital literacy.

Mr. John Adamson, Program Manager, and Ms. Sunny Washington, Digital Literacy Program Manager, Certiport, Inc., made a presentation and briefed the Committee on the impact of computing literacy certification in Utah, the United States, and worldwide. Ms. Washington explained their relationship with USOE and the resource they provide to the state.

Mr. Russell Klein, Business Education Specialist, USOE, stated that during the last four years the number of students tested in computing literacy through Certiport has increased from 10,000 to 35,000 annually. Approximately 65 percent of students tested received certificates.

3. Diabetes Care of Pupils in Schools

Sen. Arent distributed and reviewed draft legislation, "Care of Students with Diabetes in School." The bill directs a public school to identify and train school personnel who volunteer to be trained in the administration of glucagon in an emergency and permit a student to possess or possess and self-administer diabetes medication, when requested by parents.

Ms. Natalie Rogers, parent, commented on the training and administering of glucagon to her child at school and spoke in support of the bill.

Dr. Mary A. Murray, Chief, Pediatric Endocrinology, and Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Utah School of Medicine, discussed the medical value for students with diabetes to receive glucagon in an emergency and spoke in support of the bill.

Mr. Larsen reviewed the provisions of the draft legislation, "Care of Students with Diabetes in School."

MOTION: Sen. Arent moved to amend the draft legislation as follows:

Page 2, Line 47: after "authorization," delete "identify and"

Page 2, Line 51: after "school" insert "shall assist and"

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Chris Wangsgard, attorney and parent, spoke in support of the bill.

Sen. Ed Mayne introduced Ms. Deborah Milan-Niler, President, Utah School Nurse Association, who addressed the Committee. Ms. Niler spoke in support of the legislation, which addresses the use of glucagon in an extreme emergency only after all other preventive measures identified in the health care plan have been followed.

Sen. Mayne spoke in support of the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Ferrin moved to approve the bill "Care of Students with Diabetes in School," as amended. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Bourdeaux absent for the vote.

4. Fast Track Option

Chair Dayton noted that the Fast Track option allows gifted or motivated students a chance to earn a high school diploma and a bachelor's degree at the same time.

Ms. Jeanne G. Farr, M. Ed., made and distributed a copy of a presentation, "Fast Track." She explained the program and methods for obtaining a high school diploma and a bachelor's degree by the end of 12th grade. She asked that legislation be drafted requiring districts to implement Fast Track as an option and to grant full credit toward high school graduation for college courses.

Ms. Kathy Bybee, mother of a student who is currently participating in the Fast Track option, spoke in support of legislation to facilitate the program.

Sen. Buttars noted that he is working on similar legislation and suggested that Ms. Farr meet with him to develop the legislation.

Ms. Linda Mariotti, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, Granite School District, said that the components of Fast Track are already in place in Granite School District.

Ms. Millicent F. Jacobson, Oxford Learning Source Inc., distributed written comments and made a statement on the issue of establishing equitable school credit standards.

Mr. Kevin Branch, Jordan School District, said Jordan School District did not oppose the concept of accelerating students and have for years recognized the need for acceleration and have provided many options. He indicated the quality of the program that Ms. Farr proposed raised concerns.

5. Annual Reports

A. Transfer of Technology Equipment to Public Schools

B. State School Fund

MOTION: Rep. Hogue moved to accept the reports "Utah State Agency for Surplus Property - Transfer of Technology Equipment to Schools and Persons with Disability - June 2005" and "State School Fund Report - Fiscal Year 2005." The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Christensen, and Rep. Johnson absent for the vote.

C. Engineering and Computer Science Initiative

Mr. John Sutherland, Chair of the Technology Initiative Advisory Board, distributed and reviewed the report, "Utah's Engineering Initiative, the State, Industry and Higher Education Working Together for Utah's Economic Future."

6. Other Items / Adjourn

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MOTION: Rep. Hogue moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Christensen and Rep. Johnson absent for the vote. Chair Dayton adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.